UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20405

FEB 8 1972

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your two letters dated January 6, 1972.

A review by the National Archives of its correspondence with you beginning July 24, 1971, failed to reveal a written request from you on that date for copies of pages in Commission Document 1408 or after that date until the request in your letter of December 17, 1971. A check of service orders prepared around July 24, 1971, however, disclosed that copies of pages 10, 11, and 26-28 in CD 1408 were mailed to you with copies of other records on August 10, 1971, presumably as a result of a telephone call from you. The examination of the service orders also disclosed that a copy of a strip of paper received with the WDSU film was mailed to you with copies of other records on July 15, 1971, as a result of a telephone call from you on July 13, 1971. Enclosed are new copies of the pages in CD 1408 and the strip of paper received with the WDSU film.

The only specific records mentioned in your letters that have been denied to you under the terms of 5 U.S.C. 552, subsection (b), are the transcripts of Warren Commission executive sessions. These transcripts were reviewed by our Office of General Counsel before they were denied to you by Acting Archivist Herbert E. Angel in his letter to you of June 21, 1971. These transcripts are now under further review by the Office of the General Counsel to determine whether recent developments in the state of the law are such as to require release of portions of the documents previously withheld. We are therefore treating your letter as a request to reconsider our decision regarding the transcripts rather than as an appeal therefrom. You will be notified shortly of our decision, and may then appeal any portion of that decision which denies you access to these transcripts.

Since 1966 the National Archives has corresponded with you concerning a great many individual documents among the records of the Warren Commission. This correspondence now comprises two thick files. Records that could be furnished to you under the procedures established by proper authority for the Commission's records were made available to you. Only records withheld under those procedures were denied to you. Some of the records that were originally denied to you in this

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correspondence were made available for research by the 1970 review. Lists of the material made available by that review were sent to you early in 1971.

Under these circumstances I think it is your responsibility to determine the individual documents other than the transcripts concerning which you wish to appeal and to prepare your own appeal. If you will submit a numerical list clearly identifying these documents, you will be given a specific response concerning each document.

During the more than five years that the National Archives has tried to be of service to you, its staff has often gone beyond normal limits in responding to your requests, and you have at times expressed your appreciation for the work done for you. In fairness to other researchers, however, the National Archives staff cannot perform an unlimited amount of work for you or carry on a constant correspondence with you.

I believe you have a copy of the letter agreement of October 29, 1966, concerning the clothing of President Kennedy and the X-rays and photographs relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy. Access to those materials is based on the terms of the agreement. I have been informed by the Archivist that if you will select a pathologist or any other qualified person and secure the approval of his application to examine the materials by the Kennedy family representative, Mr. Burke Marshall, the National Archives will be pleased to show the materials to him.

Sincerely,

Richard Q. Vawter
Director of Information

Enclosures